

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-24 (Canceled).

25. (New) A thermoelectric material which is a sintered body and represented by composition formula (1) and comprises as a major phase an MgAgAs crystal structure, the sintered body being obtained by melting raw materials to obtain melted raw materials, quenching the melted raw materials to obtain an alloy formed of a metallic lump, pulverizing the alloy to obtain an alloy powder, and monolithic molding the alloy powder by sintering, hot press or SPS method, wherein the composition formula (1) is  $(\text{Ti}_{a1}\text{Zr}_{b1}\text{Hf}_{c1})_x\text{Ni}_y\text{Sn}_{100-x-y}$ , and

$a1, b1, c1, x$  and  $y$  satisfy the conditions of:  $0 < a1 < 1$ ,  $0 < b1 < 0.5$ ,  $0 < c1 < 1$ ,  
 $a1+b1+c1=1$ ,  $30 \leq x \leq 35$  and  $30 \leq y \leq 35$ ,

and the sintered body has a dimensionless figure-of-merit ZT value of not less than 0.05 at 300°K.

26. (New) The thermoelectric material according to claim 25, wherein  $b1$  satisfies  $0.1 \leq b1 < 0.5$ .

27. (New) The thermoelectric material according to claim 25, wherein  $b1$  satisfies  $0.2 \leq b1 \leq 0.4$ .

28. (New) The thermoelectric material according to claim 25, wherein  $a1$  satisfies  $0.1 \leq a1 \leq 0.8$ .

29. (New) The thermoelectric material according to claim 25, wherein a1 satisfies  $0.2 \leq a1 \leq 0.4$ .

30. (New) The thermoelectric material according to claim 25, wherein c1 satisfies  $0.1 \leq c1 \leq 0.8$ .

31. (New) The thermoelectric material according to claim 25, wherein c1 satisfies  $0.2 \leq c1 \leq 0.4$ .

32. (New) The thermoelectric material according to claim 25, wherein Ti, Zr and Hf in said composition formula (1) are partially replaced by at least one element selected from the group consisting of V, Nb, Ta, Cr, Mo and W.

33. (New) The thermoelectric material according to claim 25, wherein Ni in said composition formula (1) is partially replaced by at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mn, Fe, Co and Cu.

34. (New) The thermoelectric material according to claim 25, wherein Sn in said composition formula (1) is partially replaced by at least one element selected from the group consisting of As, Sb, Bi, Ge, Pb, Ga and In.

35. (New) The thermoelectric material according to claim 25, wherein the sintered body has a dimensionless figure-of-merit ZT value of 0.07 or more at 300°K.

36. (New) The thermoelectric material according to claim 25, wherein the raw materials are placed in a water-cooled copper hearth.

37. (New) The thermoelectric material according to claim 25, wherein the raw materials are subjected to arc-melting.

38. (New) The thermoelectric material according to claim 25, wherein the melted raw materials are quenched in the water-cooled copper hearth.

39. (New) A thermoelectric element comprising: p-type thermoelectric material and n-type thermoelectric material, both of which are alternately connected with each other in series, wherein the n-type thermoelectric material comprises the thermoelectric material claimed in Claim 25.